

**KEEN-EYED** Micky Holifield netted his first Isthmian League goal of the season to tip the balance in Wycombe's favour on a day when neither side carried much weight in terms of class.

Short rationed for skill and excitement, Saturday proved the most listless so far of Wanderers' five disappointing matches.

The result keeps them 100 per cent with a maximum ten points and nine unanswered goals to their name. But such a resounding record ignores nagging worries surrounding the champions at present.

After three easy openers, they are finding it difficult to click against more competitive opposition. Leytonstone were

never a better team. But like Hayes the previous Tuesday, they might easily have returned with a point — possibly two.

And this time, Wycombe's defence made enough individual errors to unnerve home fans. For all the midfield industry of Larry Pritchard, Barry Davies and Robb Williams, the Blues jerked through 90 minutes which highlighted a lack of finishing power from both camps.

With new striker Tony Amos ruling himself unfit, the Blues recalled Johnny Hutchinson for his first full outing of the campaign. Derek Gamblin's return was also delayed, allowing Dave Bullock—named as programme substitute — to retain the number three shirt.

## MIKE WHITESMAN at Loakes Pk. Wycombe W. 1 Leytonstone 0

Instead, the tenacious Alan Gane took the bench — and surprisingly stayed there when a tactical change might have triggered off something more convincing.

Nonetheless there appeared no shortage of endeavour from front-runners Keith Searle and Holifield. Meanwhile, although not making any great impact, "Hutch" at least produced occasional moments of hope.

As usual, Stones' 'keeper Tony Mackie turned on a fine display at Wycombe's expense. Other impressive visitors were the ever reliable John Charles and strikers Phillips and Bull.

Yet John Maskell remains in-form and unbeaten after 450 minutes' football.

That record seemed at the mercy of Phillips in the 5th minute. The Stones' number eight beat off Olsen on the half way line, and rushed into Wycombe's empty territory for a breakaway that had "goal" written all over it. He stabbed his shot wide with only the 'keeper in his path, however.

Keith Searle featured in the all-important 20th minute breakthrough. He outpositioned the visitors close to their near post, then loosed a shot which Mackie did well to palm strongly across the goalmouth. But it opened up a golden chance for Holifield, who ran in oblivious to the Stones' defence to drive in the matchwinner.

Substitute Rowbottom soon

replaced the injured Dye and troubles threatened to pile up for the visitors.

If Wycombe started uneasily, they nonetheless promised to assume full control in the 20 minutes before half time.

Weak finishing reduced Wycombe's impact, and ultimately helped renew Leytonstone confidence in the second period however.

Searle mixed moments of opportunism with less inspiring wasted chances. And it took until late in the game for Wycombe to recapture some sort of command over the spirited Stones.

Hutchinson went as close as any to another score shooting at a crowded goalline two minutes from full time. But Les

Tilley, a close season returnee from Enfield, headed the ball to safety.

It was one of the first true instances when excitement level rose significantly. But then, as the understanding chap half enquired, half commiserated afterwards.

"How on earth are you going to write a report on a game like that?"

You're right mate. It's nigh on impossible!

**WYCOMBE:** Maskell; Birdseye, Olsen, Delaney, Bullock, Davies, Williams, Pritchard, Hutchinson, Searle, Holifield. Sub. Gane (not used).

**LEYTONSTONE:** Mackie; Woods, Hames, Tilley, Berryman, Smith, Charles, Phillips, Bull, Dye (sub. Rowbottom, 22 mins), Harvey.

Referee: Mr. L. H. Sinkins (Chesham).

Half time: 1-0. Goalscorer: Wycombe—Holifield (20).

Official Paying Attendance: 1,730 (total approx att: 1,950).